

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

DD/A Registry
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24 SEP 1976

Mr. John William Ward
President, Amherst College
Amherst, Massachusetts

Dear President Ward:

This is in response to your letters of 17 May 1976 and 2 August 1976 to the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) requesting, under the Freedom of Information Act, information concerning "paid or unpaid contacts between the CIA and any faculty member, student or employee of Amherst College."

As you can appreciate, this Agency receives many requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding confidential relationships between the CIA and various foreign and American individuals and institutions. We are obliged, however, to respond to such requests neither affirmatively nor negatively because the DCI has a responsibility, under paragraph 102(d)(3) of the National Security Act of 1947, to protect intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure. To the extent that this constitutes a denial of your request it was made pursuant to the authority of exemption (b)(3) of the Freedom of Information Act.

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This determination was made by Mr. [] Chief, Services Staff. We would hope that the Director's letter of June 5, 1976 and the above findings will satisfy your concern. However, as specified in the Freedom of Information Act, I am advising you of your right to appeal this decision by addressing your appeal to the CIA Information Review Committee, via the undersigned.

I am sure you will understand that we cannot deny the existence of such relationships in response to one inquiry without being compelled to acknowledge them in some others. Accordingly, please understand that this response should not be taken to imply that Amherst College personnel have been engaged in confidential relationships with the Central Intelligence Agency.



I regret that under the circumstances we are unable to be more forthcoming in our response to your request. May I add, however, that as the Director pointed out in his letter to you of June 5, any academician with whom the Agency has a relationship is free to acknowledge that fact to his or her college or university administration. Let me also repeat his assurance that we do understand and appreciate the vital role of our colleges and universities in the preservation of freedom.

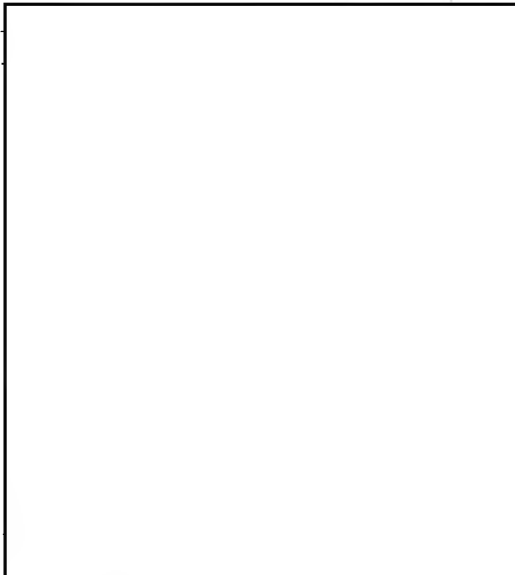
Sincerely,



Gene F. Wilson
Information and Privacy Coordinator

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AMHERST COLLEGE
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Executive Registry

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PD/A Registry

76-3977

The President

August 2, 1976

George Bush, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. George Bush:

My slowness in responding to you is no measure of my pleasure with your personal and thoughtful response to my letter of inquiry.

I look forward to the response from "the appropriate office" to the question concerning paid or unpaid contact between the Central Intelligence Agency and any faculty member, student, or employee of Amherst College.

I have deliberated for some time whether to respond at length, and have decided not to. First, I truly do not wish to impose myself upon you. I was not being simply polite when I said your responsibilities are heavy, and I would not wish to add to them unduly. Second, as a friend once said to me when we were talking together about one's political responsibility, my first responsibility is to see to it that the institution at which I have the pleasure of being President is well-run. So, I would prefer to wait upon an answer to my inquiry before rhetorical speculation.

There are distinctions properly to be made, and you make some. There are also differences, I suspect, between us on how a scholar or an institution of learning may best serve American society. If I were to pursue those differences, it would best be done by way of particular instances, so I will resist the impulse and wait to see if there are instances which involve Amherst College which are germane to my concerns.

Again, however, I truly thank you for your letter.

Cordially,

John William Ward
John William Ward